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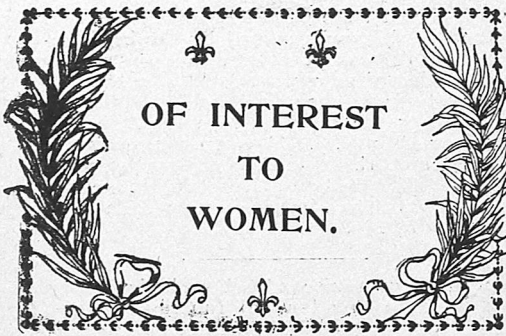
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BY THE ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

WITH May come the blossoms; those perishable flowers so exquisite in form, so delicate in color, so sweet as a perfume, and so beautiful in conception that the workers on linen and silk have made them do duty as centrepieces, doilies and the like. As a table ornamentation this year they have no rival. Those of centrepiece style are very large, the edge most elaborate in design, some four inches in depth, of scrolls, unusually deep scallops, palm leaves, and a variety of stitches well known to the artistic embroiderer. Close to the edge is a pattern of apple blossoms worked in all their natural colors, of a raised form and with an exactness that is unrivalled.

But there are new ideas cropping up in every sort and kind of decorations, that are pretty for the three meals every day; of course a delicacy of effect is the thing to be aimed at. Tall spiral vases of clear glass with gold borders seem to be the prevailing scheme, in these spring blossoms of every kind can be used singly, or grouped together with other buds equally pretty.

Daffodils for a luncheon are always charming, for if yellow is the desired tone then blossoms of yellow certainly do admirable duty. For some reason, yellow is peculiarly pleasing, clean-looking, refreshing. As a table decoration for small parties the tall spiral vase, in clear white glass, with deep gold ornamented border is very artistic; and to go with this, a centre bowl of oxidized silver is a good combination. These vases can be filled with all kinds of yellow flowers, not forgetting the outlay of green. Between these tall affairs there can be small silver dishes filled with yellow sweets,

which are very choice in a way, and as a finishing touch at each corner can be placed silver candlesticks with yellow shades, so that by this treatment, the table is one of charming effect.

As red is now the much-sought-after hue, of course in social functions it has a sway. For the company dinner, even in May the scarlet-satin ribbon can be used as a set of squares. For this purpose a ribbon three inches wide can be placed from end to end of the table, and then across, so that in the centre at least six squares are well formed. In each of these square places there can be alternately small wide-mouthed vases filled with scarlet tulips and alongside of them pretty little bon-bon dishes of red sweets. In the direct centre of the table place a large silvered bridesmaid basket filled with tulips and ivy the handle of the basket being tied with a huge bow of red ribbon.

Red menu cards printed in silver then complete the highly novel and effective scheme. Any red flowers can be used, for instance, carnations, which may be se-



WHITE CHINA FERN OR FLOWER-HOLDER, FITTED WITH LAMP.

room a wonderful focus at any point, and for a mantel decoration nothing could be better.

We have from the other side a happy thought for a wedding collation, which if rightly treated would be indeed a charm. To make this idea one of perfection, the entire table should be done in white and green. The cloth should be of green linen, the centrepiece of a large cushion of white flowers of any blossom desired, with the monogram of bride and bridegroom picked out in green. At each corner place slippers of Oriental make, filled with white flowers, smilax, and pretty light ferns, and at intervals down the sides, small circles of flowers, white of course, representing rings. This arrangement is one not only very striking but decidedly original.

The fashionable tile for table use is now the chrysanthemum as a centre ornamentation. Around the edge of this square piece of china is a conventional design in gold which is strongly defined, and as three are required, it makes a picturesque effect that is very ornamental.

The bag fever is now on the tapis again. At one time the bag as a dress garniture disappeared, but this spring it is in full decoration. For the shopper we have the dark silk with plain silver gate clasps. For the opera we have silk ones in which colored stones are the showy effect. Bags there are in all sorts of colors, shapes and every kind to suit an occasion.

May is the time for pretty luncheons. It is the parting season between friends and so there are all sorts of devices used by the florists to secure the variety. Now we have the Minton china vase in quaint shape which seems to be making a headway as a table decoration. To make these china affairs desirable in the extreme, fill them with early spring flowers, and add to them sprays of ribbon fern. We are told that later in the season the national colors will be made to do duty as table decorations in the form of flowers, and combined with small silk flags. No doubt these will be used on board of yachts for dinners and the like. So an effect is gained there is no money spared, and in that respect we are even equal to the French who may be extravagant, still succeed and surpass all other nations in certain artistic lines.

If a woman wishes to make a present that is one within the limit of any purse, let it be a pincushion—a cushion for the dressing-table—one of those airy, delicate, and exquisite schemes of lace, Swiss and ribbons. These dainty trifles are many of them in basket shape, with a lid that lifts up and lined throughout with a pale silk of any hue. They are oblong, oval, square, long, in fact of all sizes and forms, trimmed with dainty embroidery and are charming affairs costing but little money and are a convenience untold.



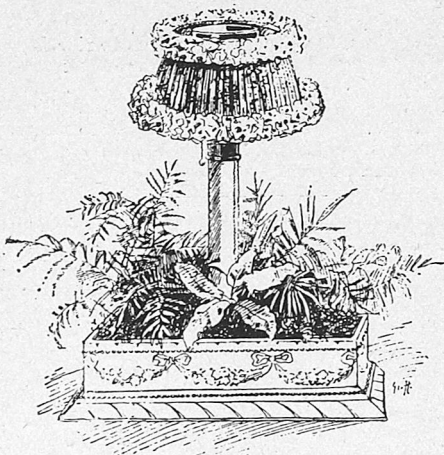
CHINA FIGURE AND BASKET AS FLOWER FITTED WITH LAMP.

lected of different tones of red and yet act as a beautiful plan if rightly treated.

Confections of all kinds are now made to match the colors chosen for any social function. Sweets look better when placed in a silver dish as they enhance the hue and make for the board a decorative bit.

The Claret Cup this spring seems to take for itself more delicate tints than formerly, the heliotrope being greatly in favor. This tone with cut glass is good in effect, the handle being of excellent shape and as a whole very acceptable.

Plaques as wall decorations are to the front again, but this time they are wonderful in their way. In the first place, they are of tremendous size. Among the best are those of Rookwood ware, the subjects being Cavaliers in the most gorgeous costumes, a telling bit of Dutch peasantry, and those of pretty women dressed in the style of one hundred years ago. But this Rookwood pottery, we all know, is beyond question unsurpassed; and what exquisite coloring, what striking tones; hues that are rich in effect; browns, greens, dark blues and good reds that mingle in perfect harmony. These plaques make for any



CHINA TROUGH, FITTED WITH LAMP.